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The Gazette

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CANADA LIFE
REGISTERED RETIREMENT PLANS

CLOUDY PERIODS
Low 14, High 25
Details on page 2

Ottawa decentralizes by sending 250 to Gaspe

OTTAWA — (Gazette-CP) — Supply and Services Minister Jean-Pierre Goyer announced yesterday that a 250-person division of his department is being moved from Ottawa to Matane, Que., where it will be operated as a primarily-French-language unit.

Cost of the move, which will take place over a three-year period, will total approximately $9.69 million, including acquisition of a site and construction of a new building.

Employees now at the Ottawa office will be given the choice of moving to Matane, 240 miles east of Quebec City, or accepting a comparable position in another area of the federal government in Ottawa.

The move is by far the most dramatic which the federal government has made so far in carrying out its policy of decentralizing the huge federal bureaucracy.

The division of supply and services being moved is the department's cheque redemption control unit which is responsible for reconciling 130,000,000 federal cheques cashed annually against a master list of cheques issued. The unit also investigates inquiries and stores the reconciled, paid cheques.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada, representing most of the federal civil service employees, issued an immediate protest on the grounds that it had not been consulted.

Nicole Levac, public relations director of the PSAC, said that the alliance had not been consulted about the move beforehand, despite the impact it would have on the lives and careers of persons in the unit.

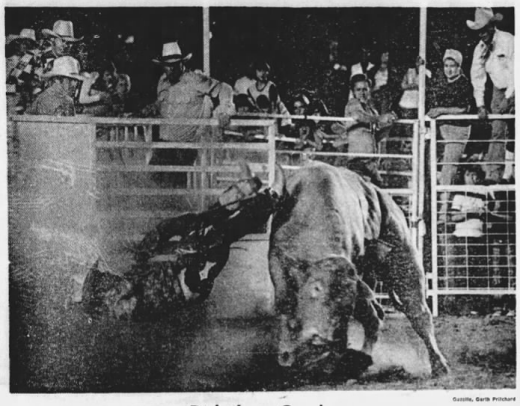
Levac said the alliance was doubtful that the administrative unit could function efficiently and effectively in the Gaspe town, in semi-isolation from the rest of the department and from the Bank of Canada, which relays the cancelled cheques to it.

In a statement issued in Ottawa, Goyer justified the move as one which would create jobs in an area where they are scarce.

"Locating this division in Matane will create 250 permanent jobs in a region where work is very seasonal and where the chronically high unemployment rate has exceeded 30 per cent in winter," Goyer said.

It will only provide 250 new, permanent jobs, however if all of the existing employees refuse the transfer to Matane.

The unit will take with it an annual payroll of $2.3 million which will, Goyer noted, "supply a much-needed boost to the Matane economy."



Gazette, Garth Pritchard

Ride 'em, Cowboy

It's no bull that the cowpokes participating in the Verdun Stampede weren't all riding high, wide and handsome yesterday. A few — like this poor soul, for example — found this critter extremely unreceptive to passengers. The event, being billed as the first stampede of its magnitude ever held in Eastern Canada, continues today, tomorrow and Sunday. It begins at 11 a.m. and continues until 1 a.m.

IOC urges second look at TV offer

By DOUG GILBERT
of The Gazette

Amid a rising anti-Canada clamor throughout Europe, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Lord Killanin last night asked Montreal officials to reconsider rejection of a $9.3 million offer for world television rights.

The order came in the form of a request, but the points in the accompanying communique indicate that if the Olympic Organizing Committee (COJO) does not react, Montreal's position to hold the Games could be jeopardized.

Since the IOC and COJO share all television revenue they had seemed natural allies in securing as much money as possible for Olympic television rights. But the IOC, silent for two years, spoke up last Monday when COJO rejected a "final" offer of $9.3 million for all rights exclusive of North America. COJO instead demanded $18,045,000.

Killanin's message said:

• "The Montreal Organizing Committee will obtain $27,500,133 (in total television rights by accepting the latest offer of $9.3 million) from the world television unions as against $17,301,000 received by Munich in 1972. Also, the IOC's share would be $6,999,846 for Montreal as opposed to $3,807,500 for Munich.

SATISFIED

This indicates the IOC will be satisfied with its share of the final revenue should COJO accept the $9.3 million offer the European Broadcasting Union tabled two weeks ago.

• "While it is necessary for the IOC to receive money to assist international federations and national Olympic committees and to cover expenses during an Olympiad, and for the organizing committee to pay for the extra facilities required, the publicity for the country, city, the Olympic movement and sports gained through television programs must be taken into account. There are also responsibilities to supporters who are unable to come to Montreal or Canada.

• "When a city is awarded the Games it is understood all facilities must be provided to secure the widest possible audience for these Games (Article 3 of IOC regulations).

• "Conditions are not the same in North America as in other countries where most companies have little or no advertising and whose programs are not sponsored.

• "The International Olympic Committee retains all rights in the Olympic Games, but delegates its authority to the organizing committee of the Games to negotiate the sales of television rights, subject to the contracts being approved by the IOC (Rule 49)."

The key points in the comment were:

(See COJO, Page 2)

LORD KILLANIN
. . . better than nothing

Show evidence, abductors told

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, N.Y. — (AP) — Whisky magnate Edgar Bronfman appealed to the kidnappers of his son yesterday for new evidence that Samuel Bronfman II is still alive and well.

"Time is going by," he said.

He promised in a statement to comply with new instructions that had been received from the abductors on a tape recording and he urged them to get in touch with him at a telephone number they used before.

NEED EVIDENCE

Bronfman's statement was the first word of the new contact with the kidnappers. The chairman of the Seagram Co. Ltd., the world's largest distillers, had already promised to pay the ransom demand — reported to be $4.5 million.

Bronfman's appeal and pledge was read to reporters by spokesman Jonathan Rinehart at an emotion-laden meeting at the entrance to the luxurious estate where the father last saw his son shortly before midnight last Friday.

"We need additional evidence now that Sam is still alive and well," the statement said. "We repeat, we are prepared to comply with instructions which must be clear, specific and practical and we urge them (kidnappers) to contact the family at the original number with such instructions and with additional evidence that Sam is still alive and well."

Neither the family nor the FBI has ever confirmed or denied published reports that young Bronfman is being held underground with a 10-day supply of air and water.

Some thought the "time is going by" in the statement was an oblique reference to the reported entombment.

Rinehart declined to answer questions or go beyond the text of the statement, which apparently was worded to avoid complicating negotiations for the return of the 21-year-old whisky heir.

Jailers' food contaminated

By ANDREW PHILLIPS
of The Gazette

The employees' cafeteria in the maximum-security wing of St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary has been closed following reports that large amounts of fecal bacteria were discovered in the food.

A report prepared by the federal health and welfare department after a routine monthly inspection indicated food served in the prisoner-staffed cafeteria "contains a strong percentage of fecal matter."

High bacteria counts were also detected on eating utensils, meat tables, and other kitchen equipment.

Doctors ordered the kitchens closed immediately after the report was received at the institution on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, employees of the penitentiary on Levesque Blvd. in Laval have been authorized to buy meals outside the premises.

The cafeteria serves 200 guards, administrators and professional staff in the maximum-security Laval institution, a prison annex containing about 200 inmates, and the adjoining psychiatric and medical centre, which contains about 65.

Aste Bubie, the institution's interim director, confirmed the closure yesterday and said the cafeteria will re-open at noon Monday. He declined further comment.

However, a spokesman for the prison guards said it is "impossible" the cafeteria will re-open by Monday.

Jean-Paul Levesque, president of the Quebec section of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, which bargains for the approximately 80 guards, said a second examination of the kitchens is now being conducted by a private laboratory.

RESULTS AWAITED

"My information is that the second report won't be ready before early next week, and the cafeteria definitely won't open until we get the results," he said.

Levesque said the union won't comment on the federal report before results of a prison investigation are known.

"Right now we don't know anything for sure," he said. "It's a possibility some prisoners might have done this on purpose, but it's also possible it was the result of negligence or poor hygiene."

Reid not sure of tax: Marina owner

By DENNIS TRUDEAU
and DON MacPHERSON
of The Gazette

GARTH NELSON
. . . 'never socialized'

OTTAWA — Kenora, Ont., marina operator Garth Nelson testified yesterday that his MP John Reid at no time told him a proposed 10 per cent excise tax on built would definitely be removed but had only expressed hope it would.

Nelson, president of Nelson's Leisureland Ltd., told the Commons privileges and elections committee he wrote to Reid and Finance Minister John Turner last Dec. 3, complaining about the tax on boats and motors.

The committee is investigating charges The Gazette breached the privileges of Parliament in stories July 24-25 alleging Reid leaked advance information on the Nov. 18 budget.

The Gazette has apologized to Reid for saying he leaked the budget but has maintained the Liberal member for Kenora-Rainy River leaked details of a budget amendment.

Nelson said Reid telephoned him Dec. 15 about his letter and the brief talk was similar to a Dec. 19 letter Reid wrote telling him it was likely the tax would be removed from boats.

'NEVER SOCIALIZED'

"He suggested he was hopeful the tax would be removed from boats," said Nelson, who has known Reid for eight years, although "we've never socialized together."

Although Reid told him the tax might come off, Nelson said he did not make any changes in his operations to take advantage of that knowledge and normally took delivery of two boat orders, one worth $25,000, on which he paid tax. The tax has since been rebated.

"There was really no way I could use that information to my advantage."

He said his only other contact with Reid was a telephone call Jan. 28 when the MP told him an amendment had removed the tax from boats.

Nelson admitted he had contributed to Reid's election campaigns, "$20 or something like that," after he received a letter from Reid asking assistance.

But he said he has always tried to maintain a "nonpartisan" stance and had supplied a boat to transport Conservative leader Robert Stanfield on a visit to Kenora during the 1974 election campaign.

During the campaign and the current Ontario vote drive he rented a building to the New Democrats "at a nominal fee."

(See MARINA, Page 2)

Today's Gazette

Energetic rock: Juan Rodriguez and Bachman-Turner-Overdrive, Canada's biggest-selling rock group, got together in Regina before BTO began their cross-country tour. They appear at the Forum tomorrow . . . . . Page 13

New York bonds: A new $275 million bond issue designed to help New York City out of its financial crisis apparently isn't going over well with investors, and underwriting banks may end up buying more than half the issue . . . . . Page 33

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'There's just no justice. Just think, Any bum can see the same magnificent sunset'

Bangladesh president dies in coup

NEW DELHI — (UPI) — The armed forces seized power in Bangladesh today and killed Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the coup, Bangladesh radio reported from Dacca.

The radio, in a broadcast monitored by the Press Trust of India news agency, said former commerce minister Khondakar Mushtaque Ahmed led the coup against the Bangladesh president.

The radio said the coup against the shiek, leader of Bangladesh since independence in 1971, "has been taken in the greater interests of the country."

"Sheik Mujibur Rahman has been killed and his autocratic government has been toppled," the broadcast said.

The Press Trust of India reported from Dacca that Ahmed had been commerce, and foreign trade minister in the sheikh's cabinet.

According to Press Trust copy from India, a curfew has been imposed throughout Bangladesh for an indefinite period.

The agency also quoted the Bangladesh radio as saying that after the coup martial law was proclaimed throughout the country and will be enforced until further notice.

The Press Trust report from Dacca said some gunshots were heard in the capital this morning but "otherwise the situation seems calm."

The radio report said: "Anybody trying to resist the new revolutionary government or violate any instructions given so far will be dealt with severely. The new government appeals to all peace-loving countries of the world for recognition."

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